

Carol Hanlon
U. S. Department of Energy
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
(M/S #025)
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89036-0307

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OCT 17 2001

Dear Ms Hanlon,

I urge DOE to give prompt approval to the Yucca Mountain project for disposal of high level nuclear waste for the following reasons.

The project to use Yucca Mountain will provide great economic benefit to the Western Shoshone Indian Nation. In this respect, the Western Shoshone Indian Nation should be given all opportunity to participate in the project. Funding should be provided for schools, to provide educational benefits, that will allow them to continue in their heritage and also move into the highly technical world of today.

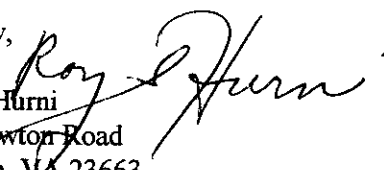
Exhaustive, intensive and expensive studies of this site have taken place. Those studies show that storing the waste at this facility is extremely safe and would pose no threat to the Western Shoshone Indian Nation, the populace of Nevada, or to the other citizens of the United States.

Waste transport containers are very heavily constructed to prevent the dispersal of nuclear material in shipment and would pose a negligible hazard. Waste shipments of hazardous material occur all the time, much of it more hazardous than the nuclear waste that is contained in very durable shipping containers. There is always risk associated with any endeavor; however, this material would pose little risk, even if involved in an accident, especially with the excellent level of training that the existing nuclear accident response units have.

Renewable energy sources have no hope of ever generating enough energy to fuel the growing society. Considering that the world used more than 400 exajoules of energy in 1998 (each exajoule equivalent to the energy produced from burning 30,000,000 Tons of coal), it would take solar plants the size of states, hundreds of thousands of wind turbines, and biomass of the amount needed would certainly affect our ability to feed the world's population, many of whom are starving as we speak. All of these sources have adverse environmental consequences when deployed at the level required to displace fossil fuels.

The real solution to nuclear waste is to stop delaying and get this high level nuclear waste repository built. Nuclear energy supplies over 20 percent of our nation's energy in a clean, inexpensive, and a safe manner. It is time we resolve this issue. However, the volume of waste actually needing permanent disposal at this site could be reduced by the responsible recycling of this fuel for re-use in the existing, and future, nuclear generating plants.

Sincerely,


Roy G. Hurn
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Hampton, VA 23663